GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:817
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Grounding of Air India Aircraft
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India"s Dreamliner aircraft was forced to ground after a rat was spotted on the flight;
(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rats on board can lead to a catastrophe if they start chewing up electric wires; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to keep rats away from flights and its surrounding places?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) & (b) : A rodent was sighted on Air India"s Dreamliner, B787-8, aircraft VT-ANV by a Cabin Crew while operating flight AI 309 (Melbourne-Delhi) on 16th April, 2016. Aircraft was diverted to
Singapore. Pest/Rodent treatment was accomplished at Singapore using glue plates.
Aircraft was declared serviceable and operated on 17th April, 2016 back to Delhi.

(c) : Since the wiring in the Aircraft is generally bundled it is difficult for the rat to gnaw them. However affect on flight will depend on the aircraft system damaged by the rat.

(d) : Rat menaces are tackled by individual airlines by using:

1) Periodic fumigation for pest/rodent control etc.

2) By conducting Spot-Checks in catering bonded stores.

In addition the aerodrome operator/owner take actions to eliminate or to prevent the establishment of garbage disposal dumps or any other source which may attract wildlife/rodent to the aerodrome.